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### THE RUSSIAN PAINTER.

HIS NAME IS VASSILI VERESTCHA-GIN AND HE IS MUCH TALKED OF.

His Pictures Have Attracted Attention Everywhere They Have Been Shown, and Not Always Favorable Attention, Either-A Letter About Him.

(Special Correspondence ) NEW YORK, Nov. 1 -The lion of the oming New York season will not be an English duke, nor a high priest of palm istry, nor a mind reader Unless present indications are outrageously deceptive, and my augurial abilities on a par with Mr. Wiggins', I think I can safely assert that the individual for whom society has reserved the above mentioned distinction is Vassili Verestchagin, of whom you have read so much—painter, traveler, soldier, writer, and the man who enjoys the happy distinction of being the most talked about and squabbled over Russian of the present day



VASSILI VERESTURAGIN.

I had the pleasure while in Europe of eseing the paintings now being unpacked at the American Art association's rooms prior to their exhibition after election. These paintings have been carefully guarded from the lynx-eyed satellites of he press by two Russian monjek carpenters, wiry, dapper looking fellows, from Kostroma, who seem to know but one law-obedience and devotion to their master. Beyond expressing the personal opin-ion that the creations of Verestchagin's brush are the most unique artistic productions of the age, inasmuch as they appeal more directly to the primary emotions than any I have ever seen, I will not anticipate the criticisms of the New York art writers. It is of the career and personality of this remarkable man, of his struggles, his aims and endeavors, that I would here say a few words,

The career of Mr. Verestchagin-his countrymen call him Vassile Vassilie-vitch "for short"—reads almost like a novel by Jules Verne. It is replete with romantic adventures and thrilling episodes, one of which alone would suffice an ordinary constituted human being for an entire lifetime. The son of a well to do land owner of the province of Novgorod, we find him at an early age passing a successful examination at the naval school in St. Petersburg, and almost simultaneously carrying off a silver medal at the Academy of Fine Arts. Two years later, when barely 20, he starts for the Cauca-sus, a country infested with brigands, insurgents, etc., and, indifferent to the Time is Staunchly Republican | dangers besetting his path, traverses the mountains, pen and pencil in hand. That It vigorously advocates the maintain-ance of a protective tariff; and it speaks in hardy are relegated, led him safely no uncertain voice for Republican princi- through all the perils of the interior, and es, and for doctrines of the party as set in 1864 we find him domiciled in Paris forth in the Republican platform of 1888. with all the raw material of genius in his Such a paper, speaking directly to the mental grip sack. There Verestchaging worked at the Beanx Arts under the celebrated Gerome, and the latter tells with the mind through its editorials, will be of much gusto to the present day how perdesert the cold antique for a study of animate nature. He preferred flesh and blood to Athenian marble.



A MUCH CRITICISED PICTURE. In 1867 Russia was sending an army into Central Asia, and Gen. Kaufman, its commander, invited the painter, whose growing reputation had excited general interest at home, to accompany him as an "art volunteer." He was to take no part in the fighting, merely to look on and gather material for paintings. During the entire campaign Verestchagin remained with the army, and the result of his labors was to open to the world of art a region that had for centuries been hidden behind the thick veil of barbarism. While throwing on to canvas the picturesque scenes which surrounded him he also took part in the active service and wen the military cross of St. George for his bravery at the defense of Samarcand. Shut up with 500 men in the ancient capital of fact that Fho- Timour, Verestchagin and his companions tographs have been reduced to about half the former the former the former. assallants, who dashed at them with litprice we have the intermission for eight days and as exgaged the many nights. Forgetting all about his pictures Verestchagin was on the ramparts with a revolver in each hand. To surrender was to sign the sentence for one's decapitation. At last there came a desperate moment when the besiegers, department of after setting fire to the great gate, the studio. Our rushed, greedy for blood, across the efforts shall be flames. It took the entire night to hurl flames. untiring to them back. "I remember, like a dreadful dream," says Verestchagin in his souve tomer entire mira, which will shortly be published, satisfaction "the infuriated yells of the savage fee, the red light in the bayonets of our solsuperior work diers and the monotonous orders of our to any we have officers for the firing of the one solitary done before; gun in our possession." Gen. Kaufman came up in time to save this heroic band.

Verestchagin's next trip was to Hin-

dostan, where he passed two years. He

bean iful land, and he has painted it as no other artist before or after him. When in the Himalayas he ascended together with his wife, the second highest moun tain on the globe, the Kauchings, on the borders of Thibet, and that in the month of January Some English officers in the neighborhood tried to dissuade him from the project, but, with characteristic obstinacy, he turned a deaf car to them He wanted to study effects of snow and cloud. The journey almost cost him his life, as well as that of his brave wife The cold became so intense after a while that their guide refused to continue further, and retraced his steps to seek A small wood fire was now the sole barrier between the determined couple and death. They cowered over it until the falling snow extinguished the flames, and then for all that day and night till far the next day they struggled as best they could for life. As a final of fort. Verestchagin, taking leave of his partner in joys and sorrows, whem he never expected to see again, roused him self and dragged his almost frozen limbs down the mountain to look for help When he had gone a long way he met the coolie who had left them coming back with food and aid, only just in time to

save both the travelers' lives. I should add, in speaking of Verest chagin's Indian trip, that he was suspected by the British officials of being a Russian spy and sometimes treated with extreme discourtesy. He has, however, "gotten even" with the English by painting a striking picture of the cruelties practiced on the captured Sepoys by British soldiery in 1859—a picture which has in a measure opened old wounds and exasperated the

natives against their masters. In 1977 we see him again in the van of a Russian army as "art volunteer" and gen eral adviser to Gen. Scobeloff. Severely wounded by the explosion of a Turkish gunboat on the Danabe, he recovers in time to participate in all the operations against the Turks in and around the Shipka pass, and to picture the horrors of the campaign on a series of striking can-vasses. This was Verestchagin's last experience of war, but his travels have continued ever since that time, and his trip four years ago to Palestine furnished him with material for the paintings which have recently agitated European religious circles to so great an extent.

So much for the man's career. Now let us touch upon his theories on matters artistic and social, which belong to the leading causes of his prominence. different conversations with him have satisfied me that he considers it as much within the artist's scope to render service to down trodden humanity as the clergyman's, the writer's or the professional philanthropist's. He does not say that when he started in to paint it was with a view to reforming mankind, but certainly such would seem to be the tendency of his work. He is a realist, and his realism is of a caustic kind. It is a heroic medicine the use of which he thinks justified by the extremely diseased con dition of the body social and politic. He limns war, for instance, in all its naked horror. It is not glittering uniforms that we see on his canvases, not pretty figures on prancing steeds nor wounded warriors in theatrical poses. He shows the reverse of the picture-the wounded writhing in exquisite agony; the dying convulsed with the last awful spasm; the dead rigid, dis membered, hideous. Such work as this must necessarily open the eyes of the nnthinking and diminish the natural love of the race for bloodshed and strife. Verestchagin is realistic in still another sense. None of his paintings can be called the his imagination, for he depicts only incidents witnessed by himself, and when we contemplate one of the Central Asian scenes, for instance, we feel it has been painted on the

It is in the domain of religion that Verestchagin's work has caused the most discussion. Following a logical sequence. he has not hesitated to depict scriptural subjects, not as tradition required, but as he understood them himself after years of historical research and a prolonged visit to the Holy Land. He has departed from the beaten track of both ancient and modern masters, and represents Christ with reddish locks and strongly marked Semitic features. He has also painted him in company with a family of brothers and sisters. In another picture, of which a sketch accompanies this letter, he shows us the Saviour in the act of leaving the tomb on the third day after the crucifixion. These paintings were exhibited in Vienna and raised a storm of opposition. Cardinal Sanglbaur wrote a strong pastoral denouncing the "sacrilege." But Verestelagin had an answer for every animadversion, and he proved yond the shadow of a doubt that the tombs of the Holy Land were so constructed that the only means of egress was a hole exactly large enough to admit a supine body. Still the acrimonious nature of the debate seems to have impressed him to some extent, for I see that the religious paintings do not form a part of the forthcoming exhibition.

V. GRIBAVEDOFF.

New Library in New Orleans. NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 1 .- Our new public library is about finished. It is called the Howard Memorial library, and is in commemoration of the public spirit of the late Charles T. Howard, an affluent citizen of New Orleans, who had gained a reputation for philanthropic acts. fore his death, which occurred suddenly at Dobbs' Ferry, N. Y., Mr. Howard had for some time contemplated giving to the city a public library, and his plans for it had been nearly completed. Since then the work has been carried forward by his



DOWARD LIDRARY, NEW ORLEANS. children, the gift taking the form of a

memorial. The cost of the structure is £98,000 It is a two story edifice, centaining a spacious reading roots. It is well lighted and ventilated, and is capable of housing 100,000 volumes. It is built of brown stone, from the Kibbe quarry, Massachu sette, with a roof of red tile. The wood work of the interior is quartered white

This institution will be especially use fules a library of references and it will afford the best facilities that modern libraries possess for the consulting student. Its affairs will be controlled by a board of trustees, the charter being modeled after that of the Astor library of New York. A gentleman long connected with the Astor library, Mr. Charles Alex auder Nelson, will be the librarian.

VIEWS ON SELF EDUCATION.

Each Mind Most Be Its Own School House.

S If Is the All. After a youth has passed through the common school of country or city, self education becomes not only possible but easy. So much depends upon self that a college course is valuable only so far as the student exerts his own personal will power and makes himself master of the situation. Colleges offer an -cannot make an orator or a doctor or a statesman. The college professor feels how powerless he is when the parent or guardian of a fashionable, rich and indolent lad introduces this mortal to the teacher and expresses a desire to have a man made out of the well dressed and well fed material; but when an carnest, open faced, perhaps poverty stricken farmer boy has walked fifty miles to find a group of professors and a collection of books, there is joy in the faculty, from the president down to the humblest tutor, because a young man has come who can make a scholar out of himself. In the first twelve years of life a school is needed; in all the remainder of life each mind must be its own school house and keep its own school.

There are many forms of human will and many shadings of taste. Often when the will power is great enough to bind a mind to the daily task of a student there is not taste enough in the heart to call the will power into action. A Chicago man, who had exhausted love and money both in the attempt to make his son absorb in some manner the text books of the best institutions, found at last, to his surprise and delight, that his son possessed a great taste and talent as a draftsman and machinist. He cared nothing for Homer, but he could make a locomotive, Since this development took place the father has had a peaceful time of it, for his son is running with great zeal along his own good

One of the finest surgeons in the United States went through a college, indeed, but when he graduated he knew "little Latin and less Greek," but there was not a medical work in the library he had not had in his room for special study, and there was not a bone in the room of anatomy which he did not prize above a lesson in astronomy or surveying.

One of the advantages of self education lies in the fact that it permits a strong will to follow a personal taste. An explanation of the great success often of what are called self made men may be found in their freedom to follow the path of most attractiveness. Many a mind is diverted by the father or mother, or by the dignity of a college course or faculty, from the channel for which pature fitted it, and thus a genius dies not of neglect but of too much attention.

A writer in an American review says: "After 17 a recitation is a stultification." The writer evidently means that when a student has reached that age he should be absorbed in his own business and should not file out to say a lesson in anatomy or in calculus when he has on his table an unfinished ssay upon some theme in politics or ethics. Whether this remark about the seventeenth venr be true or not, it illustrates the thought that the best part of education is conducted by self rather than by a tutor. If a man or a youth finds himself unable to go to college, he need not feel that all is lost, or that half or a third is lost. Self is the all. It is that something which rises above the schoolhouse. -Professor David Swing in Chicago Journal.

Lord Dufferin's Aristocratic Appearance. As ambassador at Rome Lord Dufferin quite realizes the ideal of the diplomatist as pictured in novels. A dapper man, with strikingly handsome delicate features, dandified in dress, and aristocratic to his glove tips, he is a great charmer when it pleases him so to be. Ledies think him delightful. Men have sometimes misjudged him at first sight, but have soon winced at feeling the grip of the iron hand under his kid glove.

A trick of half closing his eyes, a slightly affected drawl in his voice, a nonchalant de meanor when he enters into conversations of the grayest moment, are puzzling to some men who approach him and britating to others; nor does Lord Dufferin ever quite renounce pose, except in these brief moments when, his quick Irish temper being fired by the studidity of somebody under his orders. he rates the delinquent in set terms. Nevertheless, his most scathing retorts are always delivered with a cool, half amused sarcasm, or with a grave scorn which brings all parleying to a stop. - New York Tribune.

New Fiber from the Cotton Plant. A manufacturing firm in New York has sent to the department of agriculture specimens of a new fiber they are making from the stalk of the cotton plant. The samples received strongly resemble hemp, and seem to be adapted to all the uses that hemp is put to. A few fibers of it twisted together in the hand show remarkable tensile strength. although no exact comparative tests with other fibers have yet been made. A collection of the fibers of hemp, flax, jute, ramie, etc., from all parts of the world is being made by the department, and a new instru ment has been invented by which it is expected that the tensile strength of each will e ascertained with great accuracy.

If the cotton plant turns out to furnish as valuble a fiber as now seems possible, an important new source of profit will be afforded the cotton planters of the southern states upon their erops, - Science.

Luck in a Lottery.

At the last drawing of the Prussian state lottery the grand prize of \$75,000 went to a well known Silesian. Curiously enough his father won the grand prize just forty years ago, and tifteen years ago his uncle won half the grand prize in the same lottery. But the most startling coincidence in the whole matter is that in every instance it was the same number that captured the prize.-Chicago Herald.

Drafted Into the Army.

Not long ago Bunapone Raffaelle, an Italian workman on the water works at Dover, N. H., received notice that he had been drafted into the Italian army. He at once settled up his small affairs and started for his old home. Asked why he didn't stay here and pay no attention to the draft, he said that if he did he would never dare to return to Italy, for he would be liable to arrest and imprisonment.-New York Sun.

Heir to Kalakaua's Throne.

The heir to Kalakaua's throne is his sister, and after her a niece, who is half white. This ittle princess is 13 years old and very pretty She is the daughter of an English gontleman Hon. A. C. Cleghorne, present collector of customs, who married the king's sister, now deceased. The young lady is being reared very carefully, but I doubt it she is ever queen. - Chicago Times.

Generous but Also Just.

A gentleman one dined at the table of a poor minister of the Gospel. The fare was frugel in the extreme. The minister made a brief and appropriate apology by saying: My wife, sir, is generous but she is just; it is only by extreme economy that we are able with our income to meet our expenses." -Louisville Western Recorder.

Explorer Stanley's Lost Chat-

Col. Colborne, formerly attached to Hicks Pasha's staff, gives an interesting account of an interview be had with Mr. Stanley on hour before he left Shepheard's hotel, at Cairo, to commence his long journey. In the course of conversation Stanley said: "Do you know that the Nile itself could be turned off with comparative ease! The Victoria Nyanza is on a plateau like an inverted basin. It could be made to trickle over at opportunity, but they cannot make a scholar any point. The present King of Uganda is fond of his liquor; waking up any morning after drinking too much 'mwengi' (plantain wine) over night, he might have what is called 'a head on him' and feel in a very bad temper. He might then take it into his head to turn off the Nile, he might do this by ordering a thousand or so natives to turn out and continue to drop stones across the Ripon Falls at the top till they were blocked. To to this would be quite possible. I calculate this could be done by the number of men I mention in nine months, for the falls are very narrow. True, the effect of this could be counteracted in a year or so by reservoirs and dikes; but meanwhile the population of Egypt would be starved. His father, King Mtesa, once actually contemplated doing this, not with a view of creating mischief, but because he wanted to water some particular tract of land, and for this purpose to make the lake dribble over it. Again lighting the stump of his cigar, he

now conversed about his probable route and cattle ranges. the time he would most likely take to reach Emin. His faithful attendant at last entered and began to strap up the portmanteau and bag, a sign that the time for departure was at hand. "Tell them," said Stanley, as I wished him every success and we shook hands, "tell them at home that my mission is purely pacific." I forgot to mention that he especially told me that perhaps the world might not hear anything of him for months, "Let people remember that if I go by the route I now intend, I shall have to traverse a tract of country utterly unknown"-he pointed it out to me on his map-"and it must not be supposed that I am lost because I am unable to communicate with the outer world"-the same words that Hicks Pasha us:d when he started on his second and ill starred campaign. - London Times.

Need of Precautions at Sea. Sitting one day during the past week in the pilot house of the stermer City of Richmond with an outlook through walls of glass upon either side over a broad expanse of sea, I overheard an explanation by an old sea dog, who surely is well qualified to advance an opinion upon the subject, of the causes of a collision at sea. To quote him: "It is all owing to the 'open bridge system.' You take a man in any and all kinds of weather and place him exposed to the storm upon the open bridge of a steamship from which the course of the ship is directed by electric signals to the man at the wheel, and what does be do!

"Now, self preservation is the first law of nature, and your officer paces back and forth with wind and storm, snow or sleet in his eyes, coat collar up, head averted, and the first thing he knows down comes a ship undiscovered until it is too near to avoid disaster. Take, for example, the recent collision off Halifax between the Thingvalla and the Geiser. The investigation elicited the facts that it was 4 o'clock of a rainy morning, no fog, everything comparatively clear, yet the two ships approached undiscovered and met at full speed. The question is, Couldn't all this be avoided by such a system of protecting the pilots and wheelsmen in a warm, covered wheelhouse like this, situated forward and above the decks, as is the rule on our American steamers?'-Lewiston

Field Marshals of France.

only two living bearers of that exalted mintary rank in France—Marshals Canrobert, one of the heroes of the Crimea, and MacMahon, formerly president of the republic. The republic is apparently averse to creating field marshals; for no one has been appointed to that rank since the fall of the second emporture of the control of the brawings themselves and that the same are conducted with honoresty, fairness, and in good faith toward all parties, and we authorize the Company to use only two living bearers of that exalted mili- Orleans, La. pire. The title, which was first established as long ago as 1185, was most lavishly used by the two Napoleons, the first of whom created twenty-five field marshals and the last fifteen. But those were times of war and glory, when often the marshal's coveted baton was won by a single brilliant stroke of martial genius. If the piping days of peace should again give place to stirring events by flood and field, no doubt the republic would create more field marshals and the poor conscript be made happy by the hope of some day finding a baton in his knapsack .- New

The Society of Friends.

The Philadelphia Times says there exists a popular delusion that the Quakers, at least the old time broad brimmed sugar scoop Quakers, are dying out. It is not so in Phil adelphia. Ten or twenty years ago people said the same thing, but the high backed benches in the meeting houses are as full now as then. The truth is that, after coquetting with "wordly" ways and fashions for a season, the young generation of Friends undergo reaction and gradually fall into the same ways and the same austere life, even to the plain garb, of their grandfathers and grandmothers. - Boston Transcript.

The Fashion of "Spats."

All London and a small part of New York is wearing "spats;" no matter what the color the low shoes may be it is quite proper to have the spats of black cloth; the checked ones, or indeed the fancy ones of any kind, are supposed, from some unknown reason, to be the special property of variety actresses, and because of that women who wish to be goo do. essentially good form discard them. The fur, feather and lace boas are seen oftener every evening, because they are such comfortable things in which to muffle up one's throat .- "Bab" in Philadelphia Times.

A Girl as "Overseer."

Alice Hope Robinson, of Foxcroft, Maine, is only eleven years old, but this year she has been 'field overseer" of the picking of over twenty-five bushels of strawberries, having had some days as many as twenty little girls and boys under her charge picking the fruit. She kept good order, knew just how much each one had picked, saw that the work was properly done, and understands all the fine points of strawberry raising as well as any body. - Demorest's Monthly.

Harriet Beecher Stowe's Home.

Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe's home in Hartford is a square, old fashioned and unpretentious house, erected according to plans drawn by the authoress herself. The interior of the house is quite plain. In the library the visitor is shown a collection of fifty volumes of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," no two of which are alike. - New York Evening World.

Diamond Found in Marble.

David Wingrove, a marble worker, of Baltimore, not long since found a valuable diamond imbedded in a big block of Italia; marble, and has had the gem set without cutting in a heavy gold ring. Lapidaries say that though such finds are unusual, this is by no means the first on record.—New York Advertiser.

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